[19th January 1949

*Running of special buses for the Race Course.*

* 173 *Q.*—Sri C. N. MUTHURANGA MUDALIYAR: Will the Hon. the Minister for Finance be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that special buses are proposed to be run for the benefit of race-goers and race-betters;

(*b*) whether it is a fact that the Transport Department has recently advertised the running of special buses to the Guindy Race Course;

(*c*) whether it is a fact that the Government have recently abolished the third and second enclosures in the race-course with a view to minimizing the betting evil;

(*d*) whether it is a fact that the Government have already introduced a Bill for the abolition of betting in racing;

(*e*) at what stage that Bill is and whether the Select Committee has finished its labour; and

(*f*) whether the Government have any intention to issue instructions to the Transport Department to withdraw the advertisements?

The Hon. Sri B. GOPALA REDDI :—" (*a*) It is a fact that special buses are being run to Guindy on race days.

" (*b*) No advertisements were published; but the intention to run the special buses was announced to the Press in advance by the Transport Department.

" (*c*) There is no third enclosure for betting. No orders have been issued withdrawing the permission granted for the second enclosure.

" (*d*) The Madras City Police and Gaming (Amendment) Bill is intended to prohibit betting on horse races.

" (*e*) The Select Committee appointed by the Assembly to consider the Bill has made its report. The Hon. the Minister for Public Works who is in charge of the Bill has given notice to the Assembly to present the Select Committee's report and to move that the Bill be taken into consideration. I may add that the motion was moved yesterday and that the Bill is under the consideration of the Assembly.

" (*f*) The question does not arise in view of the answer to clause (*b*) above."

K. T. M. AHMED IBRAHIM SAHIB Bahadur :—" Will the Government consider the desirability of discontinuing the running of special buses in view of their declared policy to prevent betting on horses? "

The Hon. Sri B. GOPALA REDDI :—" No, Sir. We will run buses to Guindy as long as racing is allowed to continue there."

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K. T. M. AHMED IBRAHIM SAHIB BAHADUR :—" Do the Government want to encourage betting especially by the poor people who travel by bus? "

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI :—" It is not a question of encouraging betting. When a large number of people crowd at any place, we run special buses for that place."

K. T. M. AHMED IBRAHIM SAHIB BAHADUR :—" Even when that going is for an illegal purpose? "

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI :—" It is not an illegal purpose so long as racing is allowed by the Government. Suppose there is a conference of Muslim Leaguers under the presidency of the hon. Member. Then also we will run special buses to the place of the conference."

K. T. M. AHMED IBRAHIM SAHIB BAHADUR :—" Thousands of families are ruined on account of betting, and it is the policy of this Government to discourage betting. Even before the Bill is passed for abolishing betting at the races, why should not the Government try to prevent the evil as far as possible? "

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI :—" I don't think the hon. Member is asking for any information. So long as racing is there, the Government Transport buses will run because a large number of people find it very inconvenient to travel by other means of transport. The Transport department is there to serve the people, whether it is for going to the race-course or a foot-ball match or a Muslim League Conference."

K. T. M. AHMED IBRAHIM SAHIB BAHADUR :—" Is it not the policy of the Government to prevent people from betting in races as it brings misery to thousands of families? "

MR. PRESIDENT :—" I think the point has been sufficiently canvassed."

*Extent of casuarina plantations undertaken by the Government.*

* 174 *Q.*—SRI. R. SURYANARAYANA RAO : Will the Hon. the Minister for Agriculture be pleased to state—

(*a*) the localities and the extent of casuarina plantations undertaken by the Government;

(*b*) whether all these plantations have been successful;

(*c*) whether, before an area is chosen for casuarina plantation, a survey is made and suitability of the soils is ascertained; and

(*d*) what steps the Government propose to take to increase casuarina plantations?

THE HON. SRI K. MADHAVA MENON :—" (*a*) A statement [a] showing the localities and the extent of casuarina plantations undertaken by Government from the year 1940–41 onwards is placed on the table of the House.

" (*b*) It cannot be said that all these plantations have been quite successful. There have been widespread casualties from 1945

[a] Printed as Appendix II on page 853 *infra*.